

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02893 072034Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 OPR-02 CCO-00
A-01 OC-06 CPR-01 USSS-00 SY-05 /041 W
-----007785 072042Z /45
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6978
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2893

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRSDDENT'S TRIP: OBASANJO SUGGESTS DELETION OF KANO

REF: (A) STATE 057368, (B) LAGOS 2892

1. AMBASSADOR MUSA STOPPED AT MY HOUSE THIS EVENING, MARCH 7,
TO REPORT ON OBASANJO'S 'DECISIONS' ON QUESTIONS I HAD PUT EARLIER
IN THE DAY, FIRST TO MUSA AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY TO FMG SECRETARY
CIROMA (REFTEL B). MUSA SAID OBASANJO COULD NOT RPT NOT ACCOMPANY

PRESIDENT CARTER OUTSIDE LAGOS FOR REASONS EXPLAINED TO US

BY CIROMA.

2. AS FOR OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH INCLUSION OF THE KADAWA
PROJECT IN THE PROGRAM, OBASANJO WANTED US TO KNOW THAT A VISIT
TO KANO THAT INCLUDED ONLY THE CALLS ON THE EMIR AND THE GOVERNOR
DID NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT SUBSTANCE FOR THE FMG TO WISH TO RETAIN
KANO IN THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM. IF KADAWA HAD TO BE EXCLUDED,
OBASANJO WOULD WANT PRESIDENT CARTER TO USE THAT DAY FOR
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FURTHER TALKS IN LAGOS.

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3. I SAID I WOULD RELAY THESE DECISIONS TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.
I SUGGESTED THAT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE VISIT TO KANO HAD
BEEN PUBLICIZED IN BOTH US AND NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS, IT MIGHT
BE USEFUL FOR US TO AGREE ON PRESS GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT KANO
WERE TO BE NO LONGER INCLUDED. I SUGGESTED THAT GUIDANCE MIGHT BE
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE 'IT HAD INDEED BEEN HOPED THAT

PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT INCLUDE A TRIP TO KAPV IN THE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO NIGERIA. IT BECAME APPARENT, HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS BOTH GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING ON SCHEDULING ARRANGEMENTS, THAT MORE TIME WAS NEEDED FOR (SUBSTANTIVE) TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND GENERAL OBASANJO IN LAGOS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEREFORE AGREED THAT INCLUSION OF A STOP IN KANO IS NOT PRACTICABLE.' UNQUOTE.

4. WHEREAS MUSA THOUGHT PRESS GUIDANCE ALONG THESE LINES WAS FULLY ACCEPTABLE, WE WOULD WISH TO CLEAR WITH THE FMG THE TEXT OF ANY GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROPOSE.
EASUM

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